



ST. JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

February 1, 2026
8:00A.M.

Welcome! Whether you are a first-time visitor, longtime member, or somewhere in-between, welcome to this place where together we sing, read, pray, listen, and break bread in thanksgiving and praise of the living God whose love brings new life for us and for the world. **About the service:** An Episcopal worship service may seem difficult to follow if it is unfamiliar to you; please participate as you are able and ask someone near you for assistance if you need it. We use this leaflet and the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). **For more information:** Fill out a welcome card, located in the pew rack, and drop it in the offering plate or return it by mail. Call the Parish Office at 225-387-5141 with questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or any other needs.

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand when the ministers of the service enter

Opening Acclamation

BCP 323

Gloria

BCP 324

The appointed Collect of the Day and Lessons are found on the next page.

The Sermon

The Rev. Chris Duncan

The Nicene Creed

BCP 326

The Prayers of the People

see insert

The Confession & Absolution

BCP 331

The Peace

Welcome & Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 339

The Blessing & Dismissal

BCP 340

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and in our time grant us thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Micah 6:1-8

A reading from the Prophet Micah.

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord. With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Read responsively by half verse.

Psalm 15

- ¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- ² Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- ³ There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- ⁴ In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.
- ⁵ He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- ⁶ He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- ⁷ Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

Matthew 5:1-12

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Today's flowers are given to the greater glory of God,
in loving memory of Diane Barnwell Sumner by Ann & Wendell Holmes,
and in thanksgiving for the life of Dr. Lindley Spaht Dodson by Katherine & Ben Dampf



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The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all whom thou hast made: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, the Presiding Bishop; Shannon, our Bishop; Chris, Lynn, Hillary, and Don, our priests; and John, our seminarian; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Commission on Liturgy & Music, the Commission on Ministry, the Ecumenical Commission, and the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald, our president; Jeff, our governor; Sid, our mayor; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Amanda, Sandy, Laurie, Lucius, Elizabeth, Stephen, those on our prayer list, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.

O Lord and giver of life, receive our prayers for expectant mothers, especially Victoria, Mazie, Susanna, Faith, Jamie, Amelia, Courtney, Jeanne, and Charlotte, that they may happily come to the time of birth, and serving thee in all things may rejoice in thy providence.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Juanita Johnson, Barbara Hughes, Diane Sumner, Natalie Barrow, Jeffrey Blackwell, Sr., and Brenda West, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**